S. Boikoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

133 High mountains like Vitosha, Rila, Pirin and the Rhodo-
487 pe, with peaks as high as 9597 feet (Moussala, being the highest mountain peak in the Balkans), are the source of Balkan's most important rivers flowing in all directions (Fig. 2). They are Isker, Maritza, Mesta, Struma and the main affluents of the Vardar and Morava rivers, totaling about 1450 miles in
487 length. These mountains do not only point the way the rivers should flow, but they determine also the direction of Balkan roads. In spite of its consideratble elevation, this mountainous

133

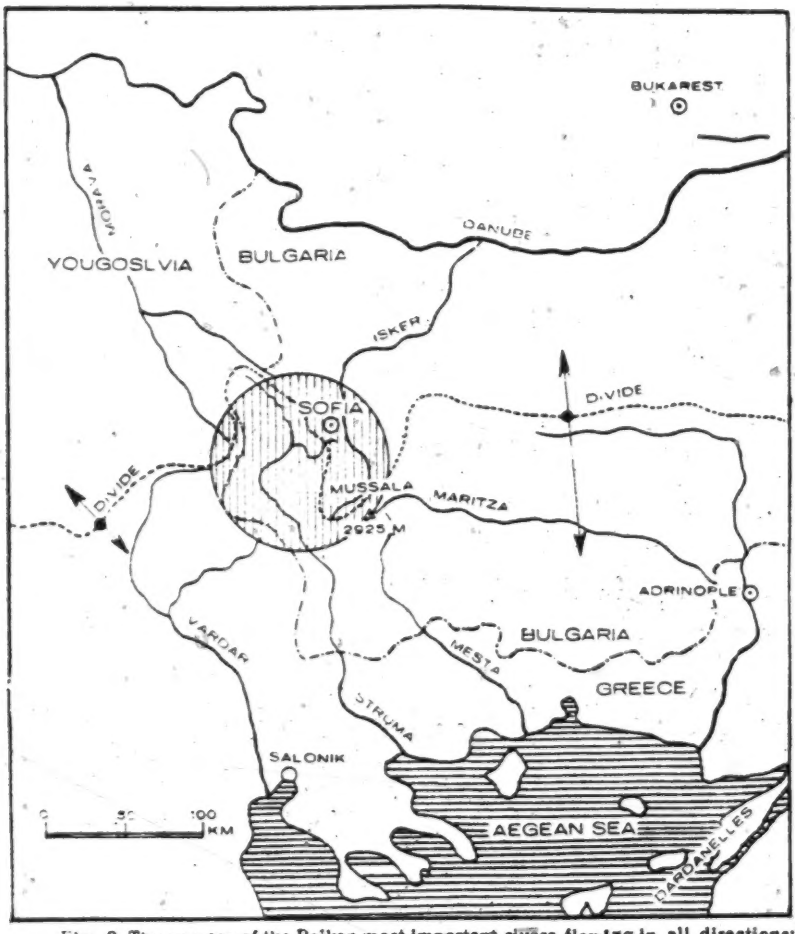

Fig. 2. The sources of the Balkan most important rivers flowing in all directions: the watershed between the Danube and the Aegean Sea; 43% of Bulgaria's territory is an Aegean Country.

8: Bojkoff K-4,5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

region, called by analogy „The Roof of the Balkans", is endowed with an amazing accessibility which makes it a cross-road of paramount importance (Fig. 3). Sofia is the turntable of Balkan traffic and, because of its possibilities and location, it has always been a very important centre of communication. It had the same significance in Roman times when Bulgaria was the Roman province of Lower Moesia. Figure 4 indicates the routes of those times. These are the most important roads known to ancient authors.[1]) The great importance of the Bulgarian lands in Roman times is evident from the fact that the roads to Byzantium, Asia and the Danube passed through them. This was the cause for the establishment and the rise of many thriving and important „Roman" cities like Marcianopolis, the capital of the province of Lower Moesia (Moesia Inferior); Oescus or Esco, the seat of a Roman legion and a fortified bridgehead against the troublesome Dacians pushing their way from Transylvania to the River Danube; Nikopolis ad Istrum, which was a lavishly embelished military city and a fortified post, guarding the Balkan passes; Serdica, i. e. Sofia, was at that time an important communication centre in charge of the roads leading to the Danube, to Upper Moesia, to the Adriatic and Aegean Seas, to Constantinople (Byzantium) and to Asia. The marked density of the road network in Dobroudja around the estuary of the Danube is also significant.

5. Bulgaria — an Aegean Country. Many people are accustomed to consider Bulgaria as a Danube country or rather as a Black Sea country. This is because Bulgaria, unfortunately, has always been forcibly kept without an outlet to the Aegean Sea. This is a wrong attitude both geographically and politically. 43% of the territorial waters of Bulgaria empty in the Aegean Sea, 42% flow into the Danube and only 15% in the Black Sea. Consequently, Bulgaria is an Aegean country. This point should be emphasized particularly, and should be observed by all who seek to understand Balkan politics. Although the Greeks have possession of this sea at present, the Bulgarians lived with it for centuries past. They planted their culture in all the lands around the sea, inhabited by the Slavs.

[1]) K. Miller, Itineraria Romana, Römische Reisewege; 1916, Stuttgart.

St. Sojsoff K-4,5 (no date) 1040 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

487
123

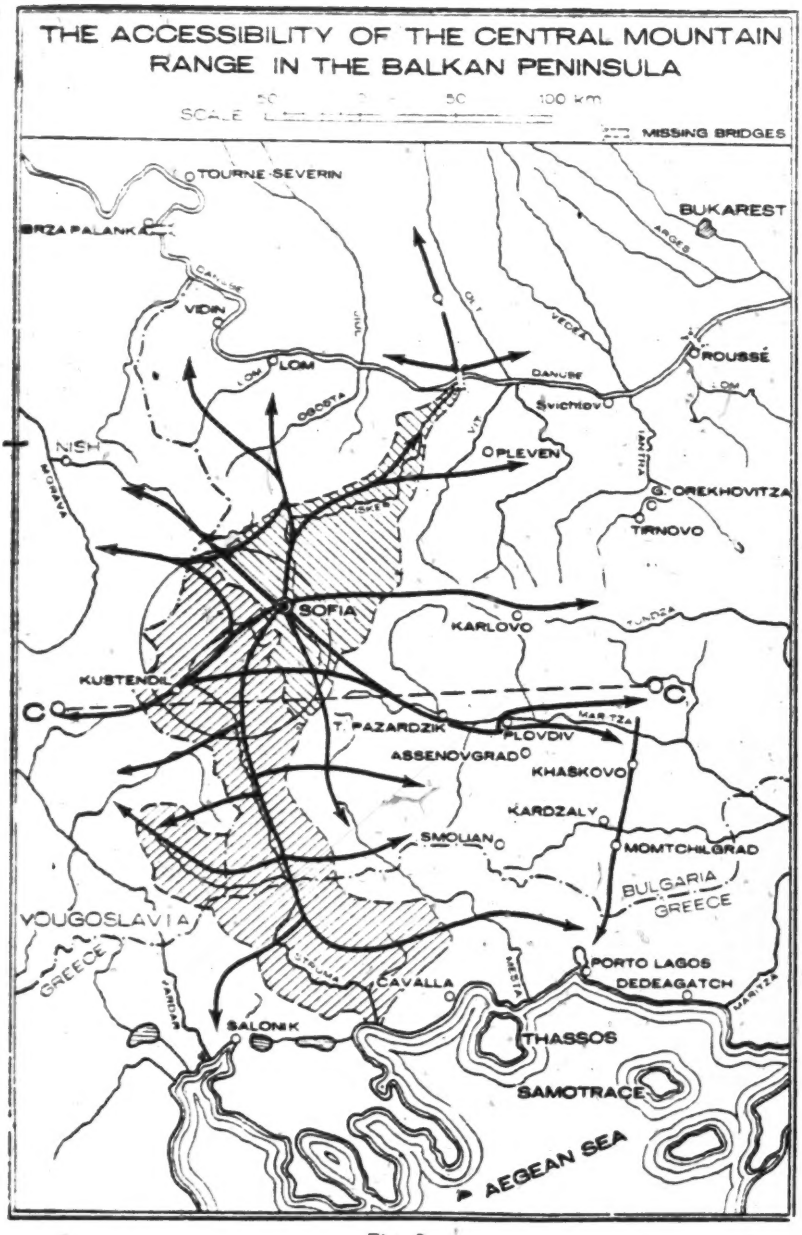

Fig. 3.

8: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

487

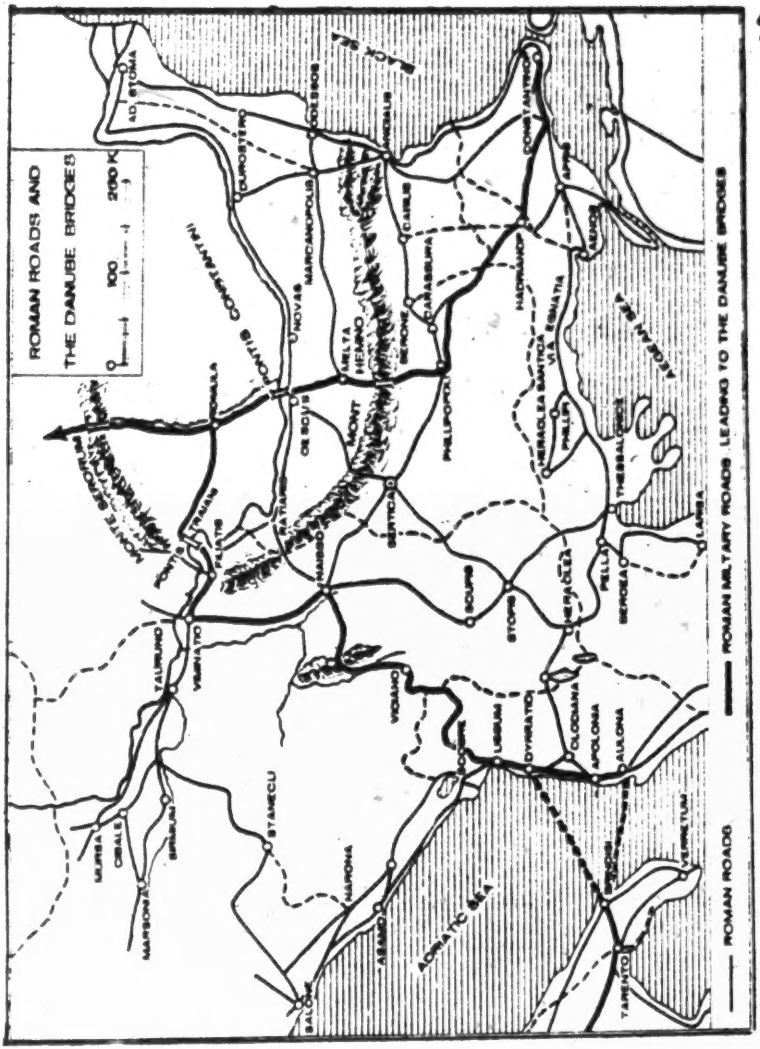

Fig. 4.

175

7. Sketch of Bulgarian History. We present in appendixes I, A-E,[1] a graphic synopsis of the history of Bulgaria. Although in a very concise form, this is a practical way of comparing the different historical epochs.

The Bulgarian State, established in the Balkan Peninsula in 679, precedes the formation of the United Kingdom of the

1 [See pp 105(A)-109(B)--Analyst]

8: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

205

States:	*Population in millions*	*Private mail in thousands of letters*	*Letters per each inhabitant annually*
Bulgaria	6.29	192,460	30.55
Greece	7.11	134,516	17.55
Romania	19.85	462,327	23.30
Yugoslavia	15.70	392,006	25.—

We should remember, with regard to the last two countries, the acquisition of the Austro-Hungarian territory in 1918 with a population much higher in culture than the culture of the native inhabitants. Bulgaria has one Post-Office for each group of 1930 persons, and Greece has one for each group of 4,000.

487

56. An Important Balkan Problem of Communications.[1]) Bulgaria is the bridge land between two important water routes: The Danube and the Aegean Sea. (Fig. 1 to 5). A huge traffic is liable to rise from the natural hinterland of the Aegean Sea, had this hinterland, extending north of the Danube as far as the Baltic Sea, had a natural outlet southwards to the Aegean. The whole mass of this traffic moves down to the south and stops at the Bulgarian-Greek frontier which, at one point, is only twenty one kilometers from the sea. The major railway starting at Roussé, the extension of which was planned when Bulgaria had dominion of the Aegean coast (1913 — 1918), runs through Stara-Zagora and stops at Momchilgrad at a distance of 64 kilometers from the sea after a course of 415 kilometers.

496

The Rhodope mountains are divided in two parts and a small part is left on Greek territory. The other huge part, with a mountainous population, is separated from the sea coast and the planes of Western Thrace which were the markets of this population and the winter pasture of the numerous cattle and sheep. The Rhodope population were the artisans of this district: masons, tailors and even fishermen. The Inter-Allied Comission, which administered under Governor-General Charpy (1918 — 1920) Western Thrace, taken from Bulgaria, until its transfer by virtue of the Peace Treaty of Sèvres (August 10, 1920), established that the inhabitants of Aegean Thrace were pre-

000

---

[1]) Cf. i. Boshkoff, Quelques Notes sur les Communications dans les Balkans. Sofia, 1945.

7A [See category 116, pp. 9, 10, 12, 13, 38 -- Analyst]